

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed to add a priority claim to the specification. Other amendments to the specification are of a minor or typographical nature. For example, Tables 1 and 2 have been amended to correct references to the positions of the cited proteins (CFP-10 and ESAT-6). In particular, SEQ ID NO:4 corresponds to amino acids 41-68, rather than 43-68, as originally noted in Table 1. Similarly, SEQ ID NO:12 corresponds to amino acids 67-79, rather than 66-79, as originally noted in Table 2. In addition, SEQ ID NO:7 has been amended in Table 1 to include an “A” at the beginning of the sequence. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in SEQ ID NO:8, which SEQ ID NO:7 encodes. In particular, the first amino acid of SEQ ID NO:8 is threonine, which is encoded by ACG, as now specified at the beginning of SEQ ID NO:7. Corresponding amendments have been made in the “List of Sequences” appendix.

Amendments to the claims include a reduction of the total number of claims by the removal of multiply dependent claims. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to specify a composition that comprises a “peptide pool” instead of “at least a peptide” of CFP-10 peptides selected from peptides of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, 6, and 8. The term “peptide pool” has been used throughout the application to refer to compositions including peptides of the invention (see, e.g., the references to peptide pools in Tables 4 and 5). A similar amendment has been made to claim 25. Claim 2 has been amended to specify the protein ESAT-6, to which the peptides of SEQ ID NOs:10 and 12 correspond. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 4, as it also relates to a method for the diagnosis of different states of tuberculosis infection (e.g., latent and active infection), and the limitations of claim 7 (now canceled) have been added to claim 6. Claim 8

has been amended to depend from claim 6, rather than both claims 6 and 7. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to specify a method involving analysis of T-lymphocytes responses, by applying the criteria set forth in Table 3. Thus, support for amended claim 19 can be found, for example, in Table 3, on page 11 (paragraph entitled "Interpretation criteria of the results"), and in the 3rd paragraph on page 12. Support for amended claim 20 can be found, for example, on page 10, line 14, through the end of the page. Further, the prior use claims (29-31) have been amended to specify methods. No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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